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Let's Identify CIA Scholars

CPYRGHT

A STUDENT of political theory and Asian affairs wrote the lead article in the current issue of Foreign Affairs magazine, entitled "The Faceless Viet Cong."

But George Carver Jr. is more than that. And he is more than the other descriptions of him given by the magazine—holder of degrees from Yale and Oxford, former officer in the U.S. aid mission in Saigon and author of "Aesthetics and the Problem of Meaning."

Carver is a full-time analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The merit of articles by Carver or other CIA employees is not the point at issue here. What is involved is the right of the general public, to whom such magazines are made accessible, to know salient facts about the author. Certainly the fact that a writer dealing with fiscal problems is connected with the U.S. Treasury Department would be an important piece of information in assessing the article. No one will deny that the CIA is quite directly concerned in its operations with conduct of the war in Viet Nam; to publish writings by its employees without noting the connection is a disservice to the reading public.

Sen. Fulbright is inquiring into the practice. We hope that out of the inquiry will come some new lines of policy which will include proper identification of writers of such articles as may appear in the public prints.